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DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below.

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Backup Well and Replacement Meters
Village of Riverdale, Nebraska

DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311594

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$250,000

PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$202,750

PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$47,250

The Village of Riverdale has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).

This project has been ranked as a high priority project and is included on the Planning List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2016 Intended Use Plan. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, and as the October 1st bypass date has passed, the Village was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding loan forgiveness capped at 18.9% of project costs.

Riverdale is located in central Nebraska, along State Highway 40, northwest of the City of Kearney. The community has a population of 182 according to the 2010 census. Riverdale has been issued permit to operate a public water system (PWS) under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179.

In November 2015, the Village's Engineer completed a Preliminary Engineering Report that evaluated Riverdale's water system needs. The PWS consists of a single municipal well, an

elevated 100,000 gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system. The Village's primary Well No. 92-1 has a capacity of 450 gallons per minute. However, that well is over 23 years in age and the engineering report concluded that the Village needs to establish a backup supply for the system. Further, old antiquated water meters are in need of replacement, and will be through an upgrade to radio-read technology. Those meter replacements are categorically eligible for funding under the Green Project Reserve, as it will help minimize operation costs for the Village through less labor required to read water meters.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All of the responses were positive in that they indicated the project would be unlikely to cause any violation, would have no effect, was cleared of any significant concerns or they offered no objection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) raised a concern, since the proposed project is in the Platte River basin and any project resulting in a water depletion in that basin would further or continue the deterioration of stressed habitat conditions. However, additional documentation was provided to show that the project is to provide a backup well for the community and that its current consumptive water use would, if anything, decrease as a result of the project. Based on the additional information provided, the USFWS provided correspondence that the project is not subject to further review.

The new well will be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and a construction permit will be required from the local Natural Resources District. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit will be required by NDEQ if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The well will be installed on land owned by the Village.

The Village is eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent on 81.1% of the estimated project costs (i.e., 18.9% will be forgiven). In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Riverdale's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$12,139. Riverdale's current water rate for a residential connection is \$18 per month for the first 6,000 gallons of water used, with a \$1 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of \$20 per month, based on a common household water use of 8,000 gallons. Based on 91 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$11 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$31 per month.

A Public Hearing was held December 14, 2015, with 35 days advanced posted notice. A presentation of the project was made by the Engineer, including the DWSRF loan options and potential impacts to user rates. The Village Board had questions, which were responded to by the Engineer. No comments were made by the public and no other input was received.

The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in March of 2015, wherein one deficiency was noted, which was subsequently addressed by the system. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program

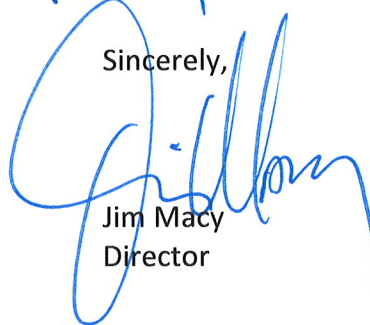
policy. The Village will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and wherein that assessment(s) will be uploaded to the project file. Lastly, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the PWS maintain compliance. No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction or waste discharges will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., NDNR, NRD, etc.), if necessary. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the environmental assessment, the preliminary engineering report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ. The latter are available for public review upon request and the environmental assessment is attached. The NDEQ will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to Steve McNulty at 402 471-1006 or email steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov of DHHS, or John Danforth at 402 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov of the Water Division of NDEQ.

Signed this 3rd day of February, 2016.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
Distribution List
Map

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

A. Project Identification:

Applicant: Village of Riverdale
Project No.: D311594
Village: Riverdale **County:** Buffalo **State:** NE
Total Project Amount: \$250,000
DWSRF Loan Amount: \$202,750
DWSRF Loan Forgiveness: \$47,250

B. Community Description:

Location: Riverdale is located in central Nebraska, along State Highway 40, northwest of the City of Kearney.

Population: The community has a population of 182 according to the 2010 census, which has slightly declined over the past decade.

Current Water System Facilities: The public water system consists of a single municipal well, an elevated 100,000 gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system.

- C. **Project Description:** In November 2015, the Village's Engineer completed a Preliminary Engineering Report that evaluated Riverdale's water system needs. The Village's primary Well No. 92-1 has a capacity of 450 gallons per minute. However, that well is over 23 years in age and the engineering report concluded that the Village needs to establish a backup supply for the system. Further, old antiquated water meters are in need of replacement, and will be through an upgrade to radio-read technology.

D. Alternatives Considered:

Two main alternatives studied were:

1. No project; or
2. Backup Supply Well.

Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative: Riverdale's primary well was drilled in 1992, and is approaching the average life of a municipal supply well in the State of Nebraska, which is 35 to 40 years. Thus, the need for a backup source of supply to the Village's public water system has been established and is considered a critical capacity development need for the operation of the system. There are no water quality concerns with the existing well, as such drilling a new well within Village limits reduces the length of required transmission main to connect to the distribution system.

Without completing the project, Riverdale would be left operating a single well system. Should their existing well fail for any reason, the Village may not be able to assure an adequate supply of safe drinking water on a continuous basis to its residents, which is a regulatory requirement.

Lastly, without the project there also would be no replacement water meters. As the Village would then be left with the existing old antiquated meters, it may be left without the means to accurately identify revenue, needed to efficiently manage their public water system.

E. Environmental Impact Summary:

Primary:

Construction: Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust, a limited potential for soil erosion, and fuel/oil spills. The Village will make application to the local Natural Resources District for a well construction permit. The new well will be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Review and approval for a construction permit will be required from the Engineering Services Program of the DHHS.

Environmental: The construction contracts will require that the contractors return the area to its original or better condition. The submersible well and meter pit will occupy a very small area of land (<250 square feet) and will have little, if any effect on area species. All of the land area to be disturbed during construction will be Village owned and was previously disturbed when the Village was constructed. Based on a review of the available mapping, no portion of the specific project site is situated within the 100-year flood plain.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All of the responses were positive in that they indicated the project would be unlikely to cause any violation, would have no effect, was cleared of any significant concerns or they offered no objection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) raised a concern since the proposed project is in the Platte River basin, and any project resulting in a water depletion in that basin would further or continue the deterioration of stressed habitat conditions. However, additional documentation was provided to show that the project is to provide a backup well for the community, and that its current consumptive water use would, if anything, decrease as a result of the project. Based on the additional information provided, the USFWS provided correspondence that the project is not subject to further review.

Financial: An application for a DWSRF loan has been received for \$250,000 to fund the system improvements. The Village is eligible for a 30-year loan with an

interest rate of 2% plus an administrative fee of 1% on the outstanding principal balance assessed annually. Further, Riverdale qualifies for 18.9% of loan forgiveness on all eligible project costs based on the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2016 program criteria. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$12,139. Riverdale's current water rate for a residential connection is \$18 per month for the first 6,000 gallons of water used, with a \$1 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of \$20 per month, based on a common household water use of 8,000 gallons. Based on 91 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$11 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$31 per month. Following construction, Riverdale will make a final assessment of revenues and cost to determine what rate adjustments are necessary.

Secondary:

Population Impacts: The project is not needed for future growth as the community has a slightly declining population, but rather to establish a backup supply source for redundant water supply needs.

Land Use and Trends: It will be required that the well site be approved by the DHHS and is projected to be located at proposed well site #3. In addition, all new water mains will be placed below ground at depths that will not interrupt any planned practices. The Nebraska State Historical Society noted that the project will have no affect for archeological, architectural, or historic properties.

Environmental: The proposed project will have no effect on the availability of water quantity in the area. The minimal amount of solid waste generated by the project will be disposed in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with municipal well and water main construction.

Environmental Justice: The proposed project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All structures will be placed in areas previously disturbed or on Village owned property, and the services provided by the proposed project will be available to everyone in Riverdale, equally. No segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects.

Mitigation measures necessary to eliminate adverse environmental effect:

Proper construction techniques will be utilized to minimize soil erosion and other potential impacts of construction. Traffic flow may be affected by construction when water main construction is being done along the Village road right-of-ways; however, safety control measures (i.e., signs, etc.) will be implemented. An NPDES Construction Stormwater permit for runoff associated with construction activity and a Stormwater

Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDEQ for this project if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The Community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the stormwater permit notice of intent submitted to the NDEQ. Authorization of stormwater runoff from the construction activity must be in place prior to commencing construction.

Irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources: The resources committed to the project include the equipment, materials and energy used in construction.

F. Measures Taken to Insure Environmental Soundness:

Public Involvement: A Public Hearing was held December 14, 2015, with 35 days advanced posted notice. A presentation of the proposed project was made by the Engineer, including the DWSRF loan options and potential impacts to user rates. The Village Board had questions, which were responded to by the Engineer.

Public Opposition or Opinions: No comments were made by and no other input was received from the public.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:

Facility Planning: Preliminary Engineering Report, Village of Riverdale, Miller & Associates, November 2015

Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, August 26, 2015, email
U.S. Department of the Army, August 24, 2015 letter
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, September 15, 2015 letter and November 9, 2015, email

State: Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, August 26, 2015, email
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, September 3, 2015, email
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, September 15, 2015, memorandum
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, September 24, 2015, letter
Nebraska State Fire Marshall, August 20, 2015, email
Nebraska State Historical Society, August 24, 2015, letter

Consulting Engineers: Miller & Associates, Kearney, NE

Public Groups: Village of Riverdale Residents

- G. Positive Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project:** The project will allow Riverdale to maintain compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure future water availability. Historical monitoring shows that the proposed backup well should meet all drinking water standards per Title 179, Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems. As such, the project is considered reasonable, not contrary to conservation or the public welfare and is a beneficial use of resources by the Village of Riverdale.
- H. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts:** Review of the preliminary engineering report and supporting information indicates that the proposed project will result in no significant impact on the environment. Federal and State agencies reported no impact will result to endangered species, historical, farming or groundwater resources. All necessary permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., NRD, NDNR, NDEQ, etc.), if necessary.



Reviewing Engineer



Date

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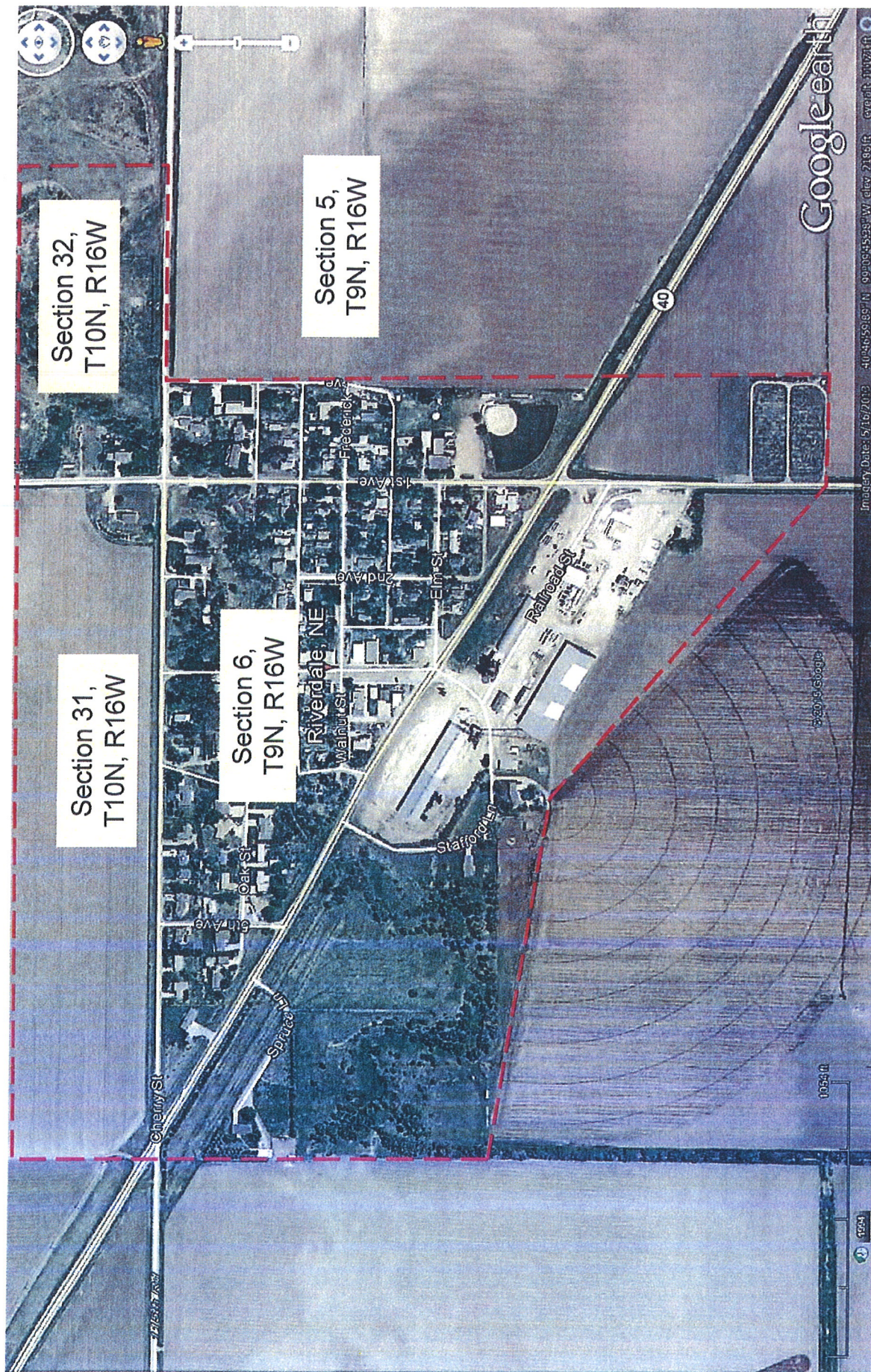
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CONSULTING ENGINEERS:
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Kearney, NE 68847

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Kearney, NE 68848-1988

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
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Grand Island, NE 68803



Prepared By:

M&A
Miller & Associates
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.
 Kearney, NE - (308) 234-6456

Map Legend

Project Limit Boundary.....

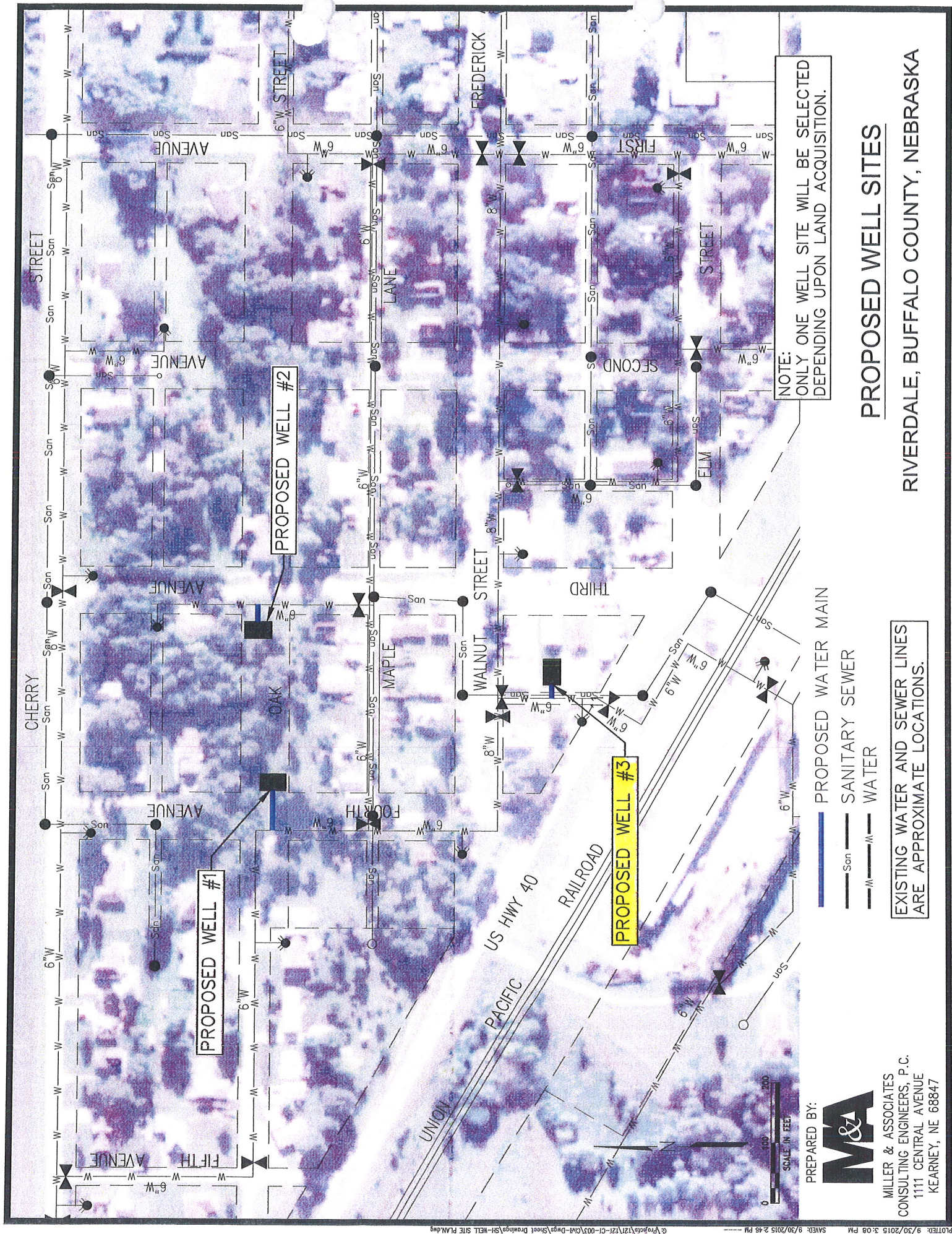
North



Riverdale Water Improvements Environmental Review Map

Riverdale, Nebraska

Project # 121-C1-003



PROPOSED WELL SITES

EXISTING WATER AND SEWER LINES
ARE APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS.

RIVERDALE, BUFFALO COUNTY, NEBRASKA

PREPARED BY:



MILLER & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.
1111 CENTRAL AVENUE
KEARNEY, NE 68847



NOTE:
ONLY ONE WELL SITE WILL BE SELECTED
DEPENDING UPON LAND ACQUISITION.

PROPOSED WATER MAIN

SANITARY SEWER

WATER

PROPOSED WELL #3

PROPOSED WELL #2

PROPOSED WELL #1